

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An optical pickup apparatus for
reproducing information from an optical disk,
comprising:

10 a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the
optical disk having two recording layers through an
objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light
reflected from the optical disk is directed through said
objective lens and a beam splitting device,

15 wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light
receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal and a
second light receiving area for detecting a focus error
signal, and

20 a configuration is provided such that the
center of the optical axis of the reflected light in
said beam splitting device is made to lie within said
second light receiving area for detecting the focus
error signal.

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2. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in
claim 1, wherein:

lines defining said three light receiving
areas comprise three straight lines and a curved line.

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10 3. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in
claim 1, wherein:

lines defining said three light receiving
areas comprise three straight lines, and each of at
least two angles formed between respective ones of these
lines is more than 90 degrees.

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20 4. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in
claim 1, wherein:

when the beam from said objective lens is made
to focus in the recording layer nearer to said objective
lens from among said two recording layers of the optical
disk, the reflected light from the recording layer
25 farther from said objective lens from among said two

recording layers is applied to said second light area for detecting the focus error signal.

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5. An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk, comprising:

10 a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

15 a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device, wherein:

20 said beam splitting device has two first light receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal, a second light receiving area for detecting a focus error signal and a fourth light receiving area including the optical axis of the reflected light..

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6. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in
claim 1, wherein:

 said beam splitting device comprises a
hologram device.

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7. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in
10 claim 5, wherein:

 said beam splitting device comprises a
hologram device.

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8. An optical disk drive apparatus comprising
the optical pickup apparatus claimed in claim 1.

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9. An optical disk drive apparatus comprising
the optical pickup apparatus claimed in claim 5.

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10. An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk, comprising:

5 a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

10 a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

15 wherein:

 said beam splitting device has two first light receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal and a second light receiving area for detecting a focus error signal, and

15 the amount of the push-pull signal detected in said two first light receiving areas for detecting the push-pull signal is more than 50 % of the total amount of the push-pull signal obtained from said optical disk.

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11. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

25 lines defining said three light receiving

areas comprise three straight lines and a curved line.

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12. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

lines defining said three light receiving areas comprise three straight lines, and each of at 10 least two angles formed between respective ones of these lines is more than 90 degrees.

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13. The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

said beam splitting device comprises a hologram device.

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14. An optical disk drive apparatus 25 comprising the optical pickup apparatus claimed in claim

